



Illustration by Jeanne R. Janish,
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TRIFOLIUM CYATHIFERUM **CUP CLOVER**

Cup Clover is an annual with ascending or erect stems that stand 10-50 cm tall. Small leaves are borne alternately on the stems, each leaf having 2 stipules at the base of a long stalk bearing 3 leaflets with toothed margins. Clover heads are borne on leafless stalks from leaf axils. Each head consists of 5-30 flowers cupped within a shallowly lobed, prominently veined, finely toothed involucre of fused bracts. Flower heads are 5-15 mm long and about the same width. The small flowers are about 2-5 mm long. The calyx has a 13-20 nerved tube and 5 teeth; the lower 3 teeth each have 2 or 3 forked, bristly tips. The white, cream, or pink flower is about as long as the tips of the calyx teeth. The fruit is a pod and usually has 2 seeds. Flowering in June-July.

Distinguished from other *TRIFOLIUM* in our area by the flower heads subtended by a shallowly lobed involucre, and the lower calyx teeth with 2 or 3 forked, bristly tips.